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## LIQUOR REGULATIONS

The regulation of the liquor traffic is, in most communities, unsatisfactory to at least some of the citizens. This is natural, for there is and probably always will be great difference of opinion concerning proposed measures for restricting the traffic. The laws must be made in accordance with the wishes of the majority, and if representatives keep faith with their constituents they are so made.

But there is in Canada too great a tendency to ignore the liquor laws. While our citizens generally are to be congratulated on their respect for the law, there is every evidence that many of us consider liquor regulations too lightly. This is certainly true in the mining districts. It is very unfortunate that it is true, for in these districts are many workingmen recently arrived from foreign countries and susceptible to impressions. They come into camps where we are told that the sale of intoxicating liquor is forbidden. According to our law it is. But the newcomers find no difficulty in procuring any amount of it. They laugh at our liquor regulations. Is it likely that they should have a very high opinion of Canadian laws in general?

These men become citizens of our country. Should we not endeavor to give them better first impressions? Why not enforce the laws or change them?

The non-enforcement of the liquor regulations is not peculiar to one district nor to one province. No one government is responsible. It seems to be the impression that lawlessness in mining districts is natural and to be expected.

Miners earn good wages and spend their money freely. Consequently there are in every prosperous camp many people who are willing to risk the penalty of breaking the law if they are thereby enabled to take in a large part of the miner's spending money. The miner accustomed to drinking in other countries is denied the right to purchase liquor in mining camps in Canada. There are good reasons why he should be and it is probable that if liquor were not obtainable in the camps it would be better for the miner. But it is obtainable. The "blind pigger" sees to that.

It is often stated that the laws are satisfactory, but that they are not enforced. Certainly there are many infringements and it does not seem that the mining camps in which the sale of liquor is prohibited are to be properly regarded as "dry" districts. It will always be difficult to enforce the law and especially so where the officers of the law are not in favor of it.

It is probable that much might be done to improve conditions without regard to the enactment or enforce-